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**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
**Fifty-second session**
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Agenda item 7
**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session**

# Draft report

*Rapporteur*: Ms. Imelda **Smolcic** (Uruguay)

**Addendum**

## Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015
*(Item 3(b))*

## Programme 1
## General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

1. At its 7th meeting, on 7 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 1)).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

**Discussion**

3. General support was expressed for the programme and appreciation was expressed for the efforts that had been made to improve the quality of conference services in the United Nations. Several delegations recognized the important role of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in providing quality conference services to Member States and ensuring the effective management of conferences and United Nations meetings as well as substantive consideration of conference management issues. Several delegations welcomed the initiatives of the Department for the improvement of interpretation and translation

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services, and emphasized that the objective of the initiatives should be to increase the quality of interpretation and translation in the six official languages of the United Nations. Support was expressed for the mandate of the General Assembly in the area of multilingualism, and the need for equal treatment of all six official languages was emphasized.

4. Some representatives noted that efforts by the Secretariat to ensure the provision of high-quality conference-servicing support that takes into account the principle of equal treatment for all official languages are not fully reflected in numerous indicators of achievement of the programme and strategy narratives.

5. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts undertaken to seek highly qualified language staff in cooperation with academic institutions and universities around the world to fill vacancies in the language services. Concerns were expressed regarding the impact of the anticipated retirement of staff on the quality of services in the Department, and the difficulties encountered in recruitment as a result of the implementation of the new system, Inspira, were noted. Concern was also expressed with regard to vacancies kept open to attract qualified female candidates, which could have an impact on the quality of conference services provided to Member States.

6. Reference was made to section IV, paragraph 23, of General Assembly resolution 66/233, in which the Assembly noted the concept of "paper-smart" and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report defining in detail this emerging concept. Clarification was sought with regard to the Secretary-General's vision to enhance environmental sustainability in the United Nations system, as reflected in paragraph 1.5 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015.

7. Reference was made to section V, paragraph 8, of resolution 66/233, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to increase the proportion of translation done contractually. Appreciation was expressed with regard to the use of contractual translation. However, concern was expressed with regard to the quality of the services and the integrity and confidentiality of the documents. An explanation was sought as to how contracting out a greater proportion of translation could be reconciled with the indicator of achievement regarding 100 per cent utilization of internal translation capacity.

8. Concern was expressed that all the objectives of the subprogrammes were the same and that almost all the indicators of achievement had been changed. Concern was also expressed about the deletion of references to multilingualism in subprogramme 2, Planning and coordination of conference services, and subprogramme 4, Meetings and publishing services.

9. Under subprogramme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs, the view was expressed that expected accomplishment (b) should be reformulated, given that mandates originate from the General Assembly.

10. For subprogramme 2, clarification was sought as to why there had been a reduction in the number of expected accomplishments. Clarification was also sought with regard to the provision in indicator of achievement (a) (v). The view was expressed that some of the indicators of achievement needed to be quantified. Some delegations noted that indicators of achievement related to the application of the proximity rule did not fully take into account resolution 66/233, in particular the provisions of section III, paragraph 17, in which the Secretary-General was

requested to rigorously apply the proximity rule without jeopardizing the quality of the services.

11. In reference to subprogramme 4, indicator of achievement (b) (ii), clarification was sought regarding the current proportion of digital printing and the expected increase in that regard. Further clarification was sought with regard to the impact that digital printing would have on paper printing.

12. The Committee took note of the changes proposed by the Committee on Conferences, as reflected in E/AC.51/2012/CRP.1, annex II.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

**13. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed strategic framework, subject to the following modifications:**

**Overall orientation**

***Paragraph 1.5***

**Replace the paragraph with the following:**

**"The Secretary-General will continue to further define the paper-smart concept, with possible developments in that regard, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/233".**

**A. Conference management, New York**

**Subprogramme 1**
**General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs**

***Objective of the Organization***

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support".**

***Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat***

**Revise expected accomplishment (a) to read:**

**"(a) Improved organizational and procedural aspects of meetings servicing and enhanced substantive and technical secretariat support to contribute to the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies and United Nations conferences".**

**Delete expected accomplishment (b).**

***Indicators of achievement***

**At the end of indicator of achievement (a) (ii), add the words ", with equal treatment given to all official languages".**

**Delete indicator of achievement (b).**

**Subprogramme 2**
**Planning and coordination of conference services**

***Objective of the Organization***

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support, including the optimum utilization of capacity for meetings and documentation services, in a globally coordinated manner".**

***Indicators of achievement***

**In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), insert the words ", where feasible," after the word "proximity concept".**

**At the end of indicator of achievement (a) (v), add the words ", with equal treatment given to all official languages".**

**Subprogramme 3**
**Documentation services**

***Objective of the Organization***

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support while ensuring effective multilingual communication and equal treatment of all official languages".**

***Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat***

**In expected accomplishment (a), insert the words ", précis-writing" after the word "translation".**

**In expected accomplishment (b), insert the words ", précis-writing" after the word "translation".**

***Indicators of achievement***

**In indicator of achievement (b) (i), replace the words "Increased proportion of translation done contractually" with the words "Resorting to contractual translation".**

**In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), insert the words ", précis-writing" after the word "translation".**

**In indicator of achievement (b) (iii), insert the words ", précis-writing" after the word "translation".**

**Subprogramme 4**
**Meetings and publishing services**

***Objective of the Organization***

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support".**

***Indicators of achievement***

**Revise indicator of achievement (b) (iii) to read:**

**"100 per cent availability of all documents in electronic form simultaneously in all six official languages".**

**B. Conference management, Geneva**

**Subprogramme 2**
**Planning and coordination of conference services**

***Objective of the Organization***

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support, including the optimum utilization of capacity for meetings and documentation services, in a globally coordinated manner".**

***Indicators of achievement***

**In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), insert the words ", where feasible," after the words "proximity concept".**

**At the end of indicator of achievement (a) (v), add the words ", with equal treatment given to all official languages".**

**Subprogramme 3**
**Documentation services**

***Objective of the Organization***

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support while ensuring effective multilingual communication and equal treatment of all official languages".**

***Indicators of achievement***

**In indicator of achievement (b) (i), replace the words "Increased proportion of translation done contractually" with the words "Resorting to contractual translation".**

**Subprogramme 4**
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***Objective of the Organization***

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***Indicators of achievement***

**Revise indicator of achievement (b) (iii) to read:**

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**C. Conference management, Vienna**

**Subprogramme 2**
**Planning and coordination of conference services**

***Objective of the Organization***

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support, including the optimum utilization of capacity for meetings and documentation services, in a globally coordinated manner".**

***Indicators of achievement***

**In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), insert the words ", where feasible," after the words "proximity concept".**

**Subprogramme 3**
**Documentation services**

***Objective of the Organization***

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support while ensuring effective multilingual communication and equal treatment of all official languages".**

*Indicators of achievement*

**In indicator of achievement (b) (i), replace the words "Increased proportion of translation done contractually" with the words "Resorting to contractual translation".**

**Subprogramme 4**
**Meetings and publishing services**

*Objective of the Organization*

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support".**

*Indicators of achievement*

**Revise indicator of achievement (b) (iii) to read:**

**"100 per cent availability of all documents in electronic form simultaneously in all six official languages".**

## D. Conference management, Nairobi

**Subprogramme 2**
**Planning and coordination of conference services**

*Objective of the Organization*

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support, including the optimum utilization of capacity for meetings and documentation services, in a globally coordinated manner".**

*Indicators of achievement*

**In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), insert the words ", where feasible," after the words "proximity concept".**

**Subprogramme 3**
**Documentation services**

*Objective of the Organization*

**Replace the text of the objective with the following:**

**"To facilitate the deliberation and decision-making processes of intergovernmental and relevant expert bodies and United Nations conferences by providing efficient and effective conference-servicing support while ensuring effective multilingual communication and equal treatment of all official languages".**

***Indicators of achievement***

**In indicator of achievement (b) (i), replace the words "Increased proportion of translation done contractually" with the words "Resorting to contractual translation".**

**Subprogramme 4**
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